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fees, and the expense of counsel. Delay, costs and fees can be easily remedied. The expense of counsel is a more serious problem. Partial solutions are suggested by the creation and extension of small claims courts, conciliation, arbitration, courts of domestic relations, and administrative tribunals. Many of these agencies have passed beyond the experimental stage in some of our large cities, for the problem is principally urban. The expense of counsel in criminal cases is best solved by the public defender. In small claims a court properly provided with the necessary clerical and messenger service can act as counsel for both sides. In larger matters requiring more extensive investigation the administrative tribunals, such as the Industrial Accident Commission, have not been able to do the work effectively for both sides. In fact, the more judicial in character the work of a tribunal, the less satisfactory it becomes to have the tribunal to act as attorney for one of the parties. To a certain extent, legal aid societies have stepped into the breach and provided counsel before the administrative tribunals on request, in addition to their ordinary functions of advising those unable to pay for advice as to their legal rights, enforcing those rights and adjusting other difficulties. The state would seem not to be performing its fundamental duty of securing justice when it leaves the enforcement to private organizations. Justice should be a matter of right, not of charity.

Space does not permit a resume of the work of the legal aid societies as outlined in the Bulletin, nor of the importance of this work in Americanization and in the allaying of discontent. It might be added that while the Bulletin is devoted to justice and the poor, the rich are also interested in remedying the defects. Just one example: How many dead-beats thrive in the community at the expense of merchants because the costs of justice court procedure with the new trial on appeal are such as to make it impracticable to sue for small amounts?

A. M. Kidd.

LAW AND THE FAMILY. By Robert Grant, Judge of the Probate Court, Boston. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1919. pp. 264.

The Reviewer is tempted to say no more than that he has read this book with unusual pleasure and interest and has been sensible, so to speak, of distinct accretions to the domain of his everyday legal thought, but to say so little would not help to make the book read as it ought to be. Judge Grant is a literary psychologist, among the best, as his novels, for example, "Unleavened Bread," have thoroughly proved. He is also a judge of insight, wisdom, and force—as the Reviewer has personally experienced. It is a happy thing to find a man combining these qualities, and articulate in generalizing upon the many problems that have come before him. It is true that he puts more questions than he answers, and that the keen brains, of the *New Republic*, for example, might find something Victorian in his liberalism, but the thought that he has

brought to bear on marriage and divorce, feminism, feminine independence, and particularly upon the attitude of men and women towards legitimate, illegitimate and adopted children (Chap. V), is so balanced and so wisely observant that it delights and instructs. The same is true of the subjects treated in the earlier part of the book: women and property, the third generation, and the perils of will-making. There should, perhaps, be particular interest in these chapters for California lawyers, especially in that on the third generation, for they indicate the manner of trusteeships in an Eastern state and suggest many comparisons with our own conditions. The illusive moral of the chapter referred to remains in the mind.

A. T. Wright.

THE LAW OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. By R. Preston Shealey. The Ronald Press, New York, 1919. pp. xi, 300.

Any attorney who has in the past fallen into the difficulties which surround the making and enforcement of rights under contracts with the Federal government will welcome this book. Its introduction states that its design is "to have in readily accessible form . . . to both the lawyer and the business man . . . the statutes providing for and regulating contracts with the government, the leading decisions construing these statutes, and practical suggestions as to the statutes and duties of the government officers in calling for bids and awarding contracts." Within the scope which he appoints, the author seems to have done his work well and to have created a useful guide to a perplexing situation.

The chief interest to the reviewer, however, is not in the book itself nor the handling of the problems which it presents. It is indirectly a commentary upon the high cost of government, estimates for which have placed it as high as one-fourth of the national income. In the appendix Mr. Shealey indicates (page 212) sixteen different departments making purchases with purchasing agencies under each, ranging in number from three to a dozen, a total of sixty-eight purchasing authorities. At page 216 he shows disbursing officers and agencies of about the same number, while pages 219 to 282 are made up of extracts in fine print from the statutes of the United States dealing with the matter of purchases for every conceivable purpose. That these purchasing agents frequently need the same thing for different departments is obvious and that they may and do bid against each other has been revealed by our recent war experience. No large corporation consuming various commodities nowadays can afford to let the various departments purchase against each other in the open market. Some cities have seen this and have established a purchasing agencies for all their departments. Why so vast a consumer of every kind of commodity as the Federal government might not also have a single purchasing authority is a thing which puzzles the taxpayer's mind as much as it costs his pocketbook.

G. H. Robinson.